Cochin Court Fees Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I beg to move that the Cochin Court Fees Regulation Amendment Bill be taken up and passed.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I beg to second it.

(*Motion put and agreed to.*)

Cochin Tenancy Regulation Amendment Bill.

President.—I beg leave to make a statement on behalf of the Government in connection with the next item appearing in the business statement, *viz.*, Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja's motion for the constitution of a fresh Select Committee on his Bill to amend the Cochin Tenancy Regulation. I trust that, in view of what I am to state shortly, the Member for the Land-holders will not find it necessary to make the motion in the House. Mr. Kunjunni Raja intimated to the Diwan in a written communication, dated 19th Chingam of this year, that the time had come for the Government to appoint a committee and that he did not desire to proceed with the Bill any further on his own responsibility. The Government have been considering the question connected with the amending of the Tenancy Regulation most anxiously and carefully, and I had made it plain to the Members of the first Council in my speech on the 29th Virschigam 1103 that the Government kept an open mind in regard to the amending Bill of Mr. Kunjunni Raja. I do not wish to repeat all that was stated by me on that occasion. On a perusal of my statement, it will be clear that the Government has not in any manner identified itself with Mr. Kunjunni Raja's Bill and simply wanted the question of amendment to be thoroughly investigated. The question has again been considered and it was noted that the agitation on this Bill raised by the tenant population has not yet ceased and that the Government's impartial attitude openly declared in this Council is still being suspected. In these circumstances, the Government thought it a proper course to constitute a committee to go into the subject, make a detailed enquiry and to submit a report with a draft amendment Bill. As regards the personnel of the committee, the Government are not now in a position to say who will be the members thereof, and would like to consider the matter before announcing its decision.

It will be observed that there is a resolution (resolution No. 18) tabled by Mr. Mathew regarding the constitution of a Government committee of 15 members for enquiring into the same matter and submitting as early as possible a draft Bill to amend the Cochin Tenancy Regulation, and that resoultion is likely to come up for consideration before the House in the

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course of to-day or to-morrow. I do not want to make any statement about the resolution at present except to point out that the Government is at one with the mover as regards the necessity for the appointment of a committee. The mover has, however, indicated the composition of the committee by saying that 12 out of the 15 members should be elected by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council, the remaining three being nominated by the Government. This is a matter on which I am not going to make a commitment at this stage. As I stated, already the personnel of the committee the Government has resolved to appoint is left for future consideration. If, on Mr. Mathew pressing his resolution in the House, it is carried out, it is time for the Government to give due consideration to the recommendation of the Council regarding the personnel.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In the light of what has fallen from the Diwan-President on behalf of the Government, I do not wish to move the motion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Am I to understand that the Hon'ble Member for Jenmies is withdrawing the Bill?

President.—The Government is going to appoint a committee; so there is no necessity for his motion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That may be made clear.

President.—Mr. Raja, I suppose, in withdrawing, you meant to withdraw the Bill also.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Yes, Sir.

The motion the and Bill were withdrawn with leave.

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest;—

4. Test Audit.

President.—Next item, resolution standing in the name of Mr. Kunjunni Raja.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In the last Council a resolution for a test audit was brought which was slightly different from that of the present resolution. That resolution runs thus: "*That this Council requests that the Government will be pleased to make arrangements as early as practicable for the Test Audit of the accounts of the State by a competent officer from the British service as was done in 1079 and 1083*". From a perusal of the discussion that took place then, it will be found that the main objection of the non-official side then was with regard to the specification of the officer to conduct the audit. It was almost agreed that the test audit was essential. Since there was no suitable amendment for the proposition before the Council, in the last Council that resolution was lost. In order to avoid the difficulty I have omitted the latter part of that resolution with regard to the personnel of the officer who is to

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